

Case Report

Condom-murder

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Abstract

Condom-murder is term used to describe a homicide where a person has been killed due to his recreational sexual behaviour and the killing has strong links with the recovered condom/contraceptive material on the scene or was in personal possession of victim. It can provide immediate clue about perpetrator. We present six cases of a similar nature. Four males and two females had condoms in their vicinity at crime scene. All incidents occurred at different timings and different places but there was striking similarity in method of killing. In four cases hands were tied on the back in three cases; similarly legs were also tied in three cases. In three cases strong electric cords were used. The presence of condoms give clue for investigation, possibility of DNA identification, about type of sexual behaviour as recreational and commercial method in these cases.

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1. Introduction

Condom-murder is a term that may be used to describe a homicide where a person has been killed due to his recreational sexual behaviour and the killing has strong links with the recovered condom/contraceptive material on the scene or was in personal possession of victim. This recovery of condom/contraceptive material can provide immediate clue about perpetrator. Here, condoms have strong link with homicide and these condoms are either recovered within close proximity of the body or in personal possession of the victim. This terminology has been used by anti-contraceptive campaigners or religious fundamentalists to describe the action of preventing sperm performing their normal physiological task and equating it to homicide. The wording used here is considered more appropriate for condom related murders as described here.

Here, three cases are given where condoms were found with victims. They were involved in sexual activities with somebody else's women/wife.

Here in Asian countries, sex is a great honour taboo, is given over – importance as a mark of chastity and honour. The free expression of sex and sexuality practically has no boundaries and cases of commercial sex, infidelity, promiscuity and objectionable sexual relationships are not uncommon. These are mainly happening because of biological and physical needs, available opportunities and circumstances.

1.1. Case 1

The deceased was a married man of about 50 years and already had four living wives. He was in construction business and used to mix-up frequently with labourer's spouses and female workers. He was brought dead with his hands tied on back with plastic rope. He was making an attempt to become friendly with fifth woman, which was not liked by the woman's other friend. One unused condom was found in his pocket during post-mortem search. He was killed by suffocation and ligature strangulation (Figs. 1

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and 2). Condom dropped from his pocket during search, one unused condom (Fig. 3) is shown below.

1.2. Case 2

The deceased was in his forties, unmarried and working as a mechanic. He was found dead with his legs and hand tied with long wire (Fig. 4). He was gagged with bed sheet and his head was smashed with a brick. He used to enjoy commercial sex frequently but due to economical hardship developed friendship with someone else's female partner. On scene examination one unused and used condom (Figs. 5 and 6) were recovered near his body with lipstick, and other female items next to lipstick cigarette box (Fig. 7), probably captured in compromising position with woman. Another striking finding was presence of one ringgit currency note in right hand showing cadaveric spasm (Figs. 8 and 9).

1.3. Case 3

The deceased was a 26-year-old unmarried girl, was living alone. She was frequently seen with different boy friends. Her body was recovered after one month of death by strangulation and gagging (Figs. 10–13). In this case used condoms were found in her room (Fig. 11). One condom container was lying near outside dustbin is also visible (Fig. 14); dustbin also had many used condoms.

1.4. Case 4

One unmarried female was sexually assaulted and she was smothered and gagged (Figs. 15 and 16). She had big vaginal tear (Fig. 16) which had resulted in profuse bleeding and panicky behaviour in the assailant. One part of condom cover is also visible in dustbin (Fig. 17).



Fig. 1. Plastic wrapping of head and face area with neck constriction with plastic rope.



Fig. 3. Recovered unused condom fell from pocket over left side chest while removing his jacket.



Fig. 2. Hands tied on the back with multiple rounds of yellow plastic rope.



Fig. 4. Victim was recovered nude with tied limbs.



Fig. 5. Unused condom found near his body on mat.

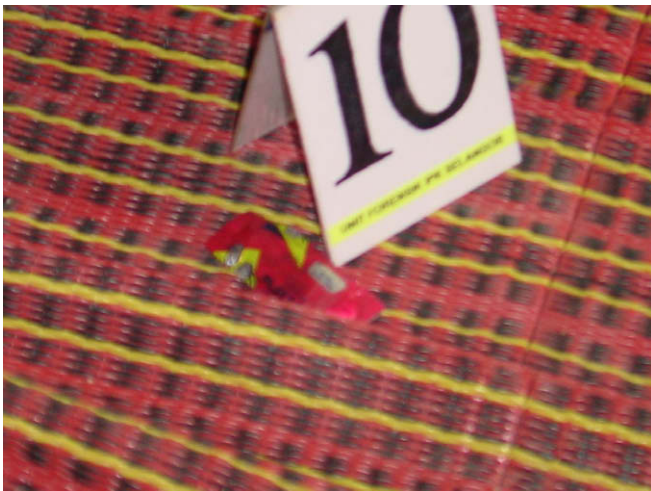


Fig. 6. Used condom wrapper.



Fig. 7. Lipstick found near the murdered victim.



Fig. 8. Hand was in cadaveric spasm and one ringgit currency note recovered is shown in Fig. 9.



Fig. 9. Cadaveric spasm seen in right hand with one Malaysian ringgit currency note recovered shown in photograph below. As probably he was trying to save his coffee money or bus fare!! Here bus fare/one cup coffee cost one ringgit.



Fig. 10. Partially skeltonized body with gagging and strangulating material.



Fig. 11. Here Undergarments were kept on the side of bed where the lower-half body was naked. Condom wrapper and one condom portion on the floor is seen.



Fig. 14. Condom packet cover lying outside, used condoms were present in bucket.



Fig. 12. Hand tied with wire on the back.



Fig. 15. One adult unmarried female was sexually assaulted and was gagged with tied hands were on the back.



Fig. 13. Legs tied.



Fig. 16. Perineal tears with bruised sides. The victim was in severe pain so to silence her decided to gag and kill her.



Fig. 17. A small portion of used condom cover lying in dustbin white-visible area.

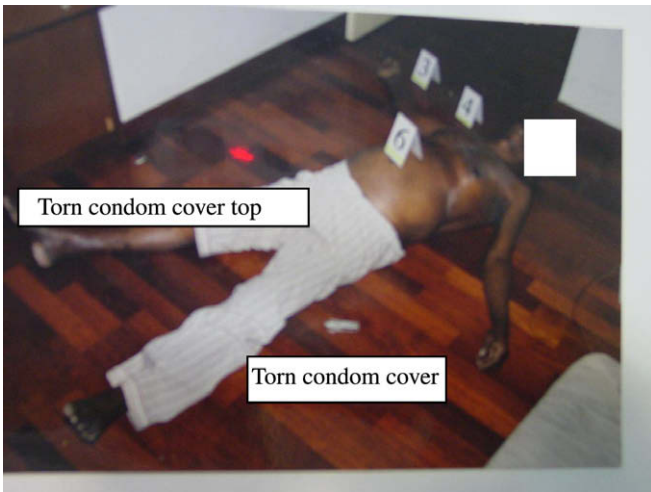


Fig. 18. An alcoholic found dead with condom cover near his body him, untied trouser is also seen.

1.5. Case 5

The deceased was a widower in early fifties and was recovered dead in the morning. He was smothered and a used condom was found in the vicinity (Fig. 18).

1.6. Case 6

The deceased was 56-year-old healthy male used to visit the near by worship area. His wife was having chronic illness so was friendly with one else. He was killed by strangulation and next room had left out female lower garment. In the dustbin torn parts of condom cover were also present.

2. Discussion

Whenever any contraceptive device like condom is found in possession or vicinity, it may be that the victim was sexually active. For autopsy surgeon, it is appropriate to screen the deceased for HIV and STD. For the investigator, condom-based evidence may provide great assistance in determining identities of possible victims and suspects.

In these cases, all the victims were found at different locations of the Kula Lumpur city. There was one peculiar similarity, in three cases hands were tied on the back of chest with electric cords and three cases victim's legs were also tied around the ankle and incidentally all the victims were smothered and gagged. All incidents were reported at different timings and at different locations – although there was no definite link between them.

Evidence which could potentially be derived from a condom at a crime scene are listed below:

- Finger impressions on used and unused condom and its packaging.
- Material for DNA profile thus positive identification.
- Sexual practices e.g., in cases of anal sex – fecal matter and other fecal bacteria.
- Any pubic hair/anal hair.

Evidence from condoms, their contents, their external contaminants and their packaging may all assist in crime solving.

Conflict of interest

None declared.